



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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CONTENTS

2 June 1994

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Chad

Aozou Strip Upgraded To Subprefecture Status [Libreville Radio] 1

Congo

Presidential Guards Disperse Crowd Around Palace [PANA] 1
Shots Fired Into Air [London International] 1

Rwanda

UN Military Commander Meets With RPF's Kagame [AFP] 1
Fighting Hinders WFP Transports to Gitarama [Bujumbura Radio] 2

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Cabinet Acts on Rwanda; Mbeki To Open U.S. Meeting [SAPA] 3
Manuel Announces New Trade Initiative in U.S. [SAPA] 3
Paper Alleges U.S. Ambassador Directed Negotiations [DIE AFRIKANER 13-19 May] 3
Mandela Comments on Readmission to Commonwealth [SAPA] 4
Diplomatic Relations Established With Syria [SAPA] 4
Free Medical Care to Children, Pregnant Women [SAPA] 4
Mandela on New Child Welfare Programs [SAPA] 4
Police Union Demands No Reduction in Health Benefits [SAPA] 5
Guidelines for New Training Strategy Published [Johannesburg Radio] 5
Delay in Provincial Government Budgets Expected [BUSINESS DAY 1 Jun] 5
Defense Minister Announces Disbanding of NPKF [SAPA] 5
Defense Force Chief Discusses Service Brigade [SAPA] 6
Justice Minister: Amnesty Unlikely for Hani Killers [THE STAR 1 Jun] 6
South African Press Review for 2 Jun [THE STAR 2 Jun, etc] 7

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

Government Negotiator Issues Ultimatum to Beye [Luanda Radio] 8
Accord Said Reached on UNITA Radio [Luanda Radio] 8
Military Situation in Cuito, Moxico Updated [Luanda Radio] 8
MPLA Allegedly Bombs Hospital With Chemical Weapons [Voz do Galo Negro] 8
UNITA, FLEC Attacks Reported in Cabinda [Luanda Radio] 9

Mozambique

Chissano Discusses Electoral Registration Problems [Maputo Radio] 9
Denies Seeking Commonwealth Membership [Lisbon Radio] 10
Renamo Official Burns Electoral Office in Zambezia [Maputo Radio] 10

WEST AFRICA

Liberia

ECOMOG Issues Warning Statement to Factions [Monrovia Radio]	11
--	----

Niger

Labor Unions Embark on 'Indefinite Strike' [Niamey Radio]	11
---	----

Nigeria

Antigovernment Demonstrations Occur in Lagos [AFP]	12
Dissolved Senate Declares Military Regime 'Illegal' [AFP]	12
Former Senators Form Opposition Group [London International]	13
Police Vow To Repel 'Disorder' With Force [Lagos Radio]	13
Warn Against Installation of Abiola [Lagos Radio]	14
Security Measures Against NADECO, Abiola Reported [Lagos Radio]	14

Chad

Aozou Strip Upgraded To Subprefecture Status

AB0206102394 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpt] President Idriss Deby yesterday visited Aozou in the far north of Chad following the official restoration of the Aozou Strip by Libya to Chad. On that occasion, the Chadian head of state decided to upgrade the Aozou administrative post, the only locality in that 114,000-square-km desert area to subprefecture status. The Aozou Strip was handed over to the Chadian authorities yesterday after more than 20 years of Libyan occupation. For many people, Libya is trying, by that gesture, to gain increased African support in its efforts to get the United Nations to lift sanctions against it. [passage omitted]

Congo

Presidential Guards Disperse Crowd Around Palace

AB0106161794 Dakar PANA in French 1059 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Brazzaville, 1 Jun (PANA)—Machine-gun fire was heard last night in [words indistinct], who wanted to march towards the presidency to demand their integration into the National Army. These youth known as the "Aubevillois" [new recruits] were given accelerated military training to form the private militia of the presidential group—the ruling coalition—in order to fight the opposition militia.

Shooting by the head of state's guards created panic in nearby schools where students and teachers hurriedly ended classes and fled. The "Aubevillois" responded with machine-gun fire last night in the southern Brazzaville districts of Diata and Mfilou where most presidential group supporters live. Shooting was also heard in Bacongo District, the opposition stronghold, and in the "Plateau des 15 Ans" District.

The situation has since returned to normal in these districts, where people are going about their normal daily business. The number of casualties from these incidents is not yet known but according to a military source there were no casualties.

Meanwhile, the Congolese National Assembly last night asked the government and the Congolese Armed Forces High Command to explain the arms and ammunition theft at the noncommissioned officers' school at Gamboma, 325 km north of Brazzaville.

Shots Fired Into Air

AB0106163094 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 1 Jun 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Congo's President Lissouba seems to have an unfortunate facility in putting people's back up. Not only has he had a virtual civil war in Brazzaville with the hostile opposition but now has apparently upset some of the young men who fought the opposition militias on the president's side. In January, President Lissouba made some promises, he hasn't kept them and yesterday there was gunfire around the president's residence. From Brazzaville, Antoine Muyumbala telexed this report:

Members of the Presidential Guard fired shots into the air yesterday afternoon to disperse a crowd of young supporters of President Lissouba who were marching toward his official residence to demand that they be recruited into the regular Army. To continue their protest, these young men fired guns all night long into Brazzaville's southern district of Diata. The districts of Diata Mfilou are controlled by Lissouba supporters while the zones of Bacongo and Makelekele are in the hands of the opposition.

There was also some fire in the opposition districts last night. Brazzaville was calm this morning. For some months now, young presidential supporters have been asking to be included into the Army following Pascal Lissouba's promise in January to recruit members of all private militias into the Army.

Rwanda

UN Military Commander Meets With RPF's Kagame

AB0106151394 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Kigali, June 1 (AFP)—The UN military chief in Rwanda, General Romeo Dallaire, on Wednesday [1 June] met Rwandan rebel leader Paul Kagame to discuss security for UN operations the day after a peacekeeper was killed, a UN spokesman said. "The safety of the UN troops is very high on the agenda," military spokesman Major Jean-Guy Plante said as the two went into talks.

UN spokesman Abdul Kabia said one attempt had been made to deliver food in Kigali, which is under siege by Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), but the UN vehicle came under fire. "We do not know who shot at it," Kabia said, adding that nobody was hurt in the incident.

All UN humanitarian operations, including the distribution of food, otherwise remained halted for the day, pending guarantees of safety from the warring parties, UN sources said.

The UN mission in Rwanda suspended relief operations after a Senegalese army captain was killed Tuesday when a shell apparently fired at government army positions by the RPF exploded near his car.

The United Nations had earlier Tuesday continued to evacuate hundreds of civilians caught up in the bloodshed to safer positions behind the lines respectively of the mainly Tutsi rebels and the Hutu majority government forces.

UN officials refused to specify where Dallaire, a Canadian, and Kagame, were meeting on Wednesday, saying only that it was "somewhere in Rwanda".

Up to 500,000 Rwandans are estimated to have been killed since the beginning of April, while half a million others have fled abroad. Hundreds of thousands of people are internally displaced.

The Senegalese officer was the 12th UN soldier to lose his life in Rwanda.

Fighting Hinders WFP Transports to Gitarama

EA0106202694 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1800 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpts] A day after the death of a Senegalese UN soldier, the head of the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda, General Romeo Dallaire, today, met the head of the Rwandan Patriotic Army, Paul Kagame. The talks focused on the security of the UN troops who suspended their humanitarian operations today. [passage omitted]

Fighting on the main road between Kigali and the Burundian border yesterday interfered with the transport by the World Food Program [WFP] of food assistance moving towards Gitarama. The WFP had planned to send 74 tonnes of maize, beans, cooking oil, and powdered milk to Gitarama from Bujumbura in order to assist the displaced people. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Acts on Rwanda; Mbeki To Open U.S. Meeting

MB0206080394 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2312 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Pretoria June 1 SAPA—South Africa will provide humanitarian assistance to Rwanda, which is engulfed by internecine strife, following an urgent appeal from the United Nations. In a statement on Wednesday [1 June] night, a spokesman for the president's office, Mr Joel Netshitenzhe, said the decision was taken at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday. He said further details would be released after consultations with the UN about the role South Africa could play to help international efforts to end the conflict in Rwanda.

Another decision was taken to dedicate June 16, the anniversary of the Soweto pupil uprising, to the promotion of the culture of learning and teaching. President Nelson Mandela would attend an event in Soweto to launch the campaign.

The statement said Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, together with US Vice President Al Gore, would open a major conference in Atlanta, Georgia at the weekend aimed at exploring ways in which American investors and other institutions could assist South Africa's Reconstruction and Development Programme. US Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and various American corporate, foundation and other government leaders would participate in the conference.

Details on other decisions of cabinet would be announced by the relevant ministries in due course, the statement said.

Manuel Announces New Trade Initiative in U.S.

MB0206080594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2226 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Washington June 1 SAPA—Declaring South Africa is back not only as a world market but also as a prospective exporter, Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel on Wednesday [1 June] announced plans for South Africa's largest ever trade initiative with the United States. The multi-million dollar programme focusses on a South African industrial trade expo in New York City from September 20 to 23 where about 150 South African firms are expected to show their goods and services. "South Africa and the USA: Strengthening the Link", the expo is being staged by the Department of Trade and Industry and the South African Foreign Trade Organization (SAFTO).

Addressing a news conference in Washington, Mr Manuel said the idea was to reintroduce South Africa—not as an emerging market but as a emerging market with a highly sophisticated physical and financial infrastructure. He said President Mandela had set out a vision of South Africa's future based on compromise, peace and stability. Now the "battle royal" was on to give hard-won democracy some content. "Now we have to ensure that markets in South Africa are sharpened so that we can create jobs and improve

on our manufacturing, that we can move up the value chain from our rich mineral endowment and re-position South Africa in the global economy."

Mr Manuel said South Africa's return to the Commonwealth, while unlikely to make a significant difference in the narrow sense of trade and economic terms, was part of the approach that South Africa was back in the family.

Referring to government's Reconstruction and Development Programme, he said South Africa had an enormous capacity to build a consensus society in the context of partnership and cooperation. This was the case between not only government and business but also South Africa and its major trading partners.

A series of initiatives being worked about between the United States and South Africa would be announced in a few weeks, he disclosed.

Mr Manuel said the development of southern Africa regional trade and stability was an important element in South Africa's drive into world markets. It was important for South Africa to stimulate economic development across the region with its 100-million inhabitants. "Any notion that you build an island of prosperity in a sea ravaged by war is clearly a non-starter," he said.

South African Ambassador Harry Schwarz told the news conference that trade was like a tango—and it took two to tango. With respect to the US and South Africa, one tango dancer was a powerful economy and the other was a fast-improving existing market. South Africans of all races were a proud people, Schwarz said. "We are not standing with a begging bowl....We stand as a proud people wanting to build an economy and saying that we have tremendous resources and the capacity to become a major world power."

Paper Alleges U.S. Ambassador Directed Negotiations

MB0206091894 Pretoria DIE AFRIKANER in Afrikaans 13-19 May 94 p 1

[Text] The entire negotiations process that led to the transfer of power to the South African Communist Party has been directed by the Americans. American Ambassador Princeton Lyman tried—up to the very last moment—to remove obstacles from the negotiations and transfer of power. Whenever stumbling blocks were encountered in talks between the National Party [NP] and the ANC; between the NP, ANC, and the Freedom Front [FF]; or between the Freedom Front and the ANC, he intervened personally.

The agreement reached in the middle of December between General Viljoen, Roelf Meyer, and Thabo Mbeki regarding the Freedom Front Council [as received] could just not get signed. Gen. Viljoen asked the ANC, and then the NP, when it could be signed, but Roelf Meyer and Thabo Mbeki always had excuses. The one would suit Mbeki and not Meyer, and the next Meyer and not Mbeki. This had obviously been arranged.

Eventually Gen. Viljoen contacted Lyman to ask whether the ambassador couldn't do anything to save the agreement on which so much—for America as well—depended. The day was Wednesday, 22 April.

Within an hour both Meyer and Mbeki's secretaries rang Gen. Viljoen to inform him that the agreement could be signed the next morning. And so it happened.

From this small event four things can be deduced, observers say.

First: It is not a good omen for Gen. Viljoen ever getting his Homeland Council implemented. Mandela and a half a dozen of his assistants have often and categorically said there was no chance whatsoever that the ANC would cooperate to bring about an Afrikaner volkstaat [homeland]. What they have said about a volkstaat has to be taken at face value. "Over my dead body," were Mandela's words on more than one occasion. The NP, from De Klerk to Tertius Delport, has also expressed similar sentiments.

Second: It proves how significant the agreement on 23 April is regarding America's plans. Volkstaat or no volkstaat, the maximum of Afrikaner voters had to be drawn into the election.

Third: It proves how healthy the relationship between Lyman and Gen. Viljoen is.

Fourth: It shows how the negotiations process was directly handled and directed by Lyman. Just one word from him, and both Mbeki and Meyer obey at once.

Mandela Comments on Readmission to Commonwealth

MB3105133794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1250 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Pretoria May 31 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela on Tuesday [31 May] said South Africa was looking forward to making a positive contribution to the Commonwealth, on hearing of the country's readmission on June 1. "The assumption of Commonwealth membership on the part of a democratic South Africa is both a tribute to the momentous changes that have taken place in our country as well as a challenge for South Africa to play its part in the worldwide quest for a peaceful, harmonious and caring world."

The people of South Africa were indebted to the Commonwealth contribution made to bring about a democratic South Africa, he added.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Syria

MB0106143194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1248 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Pretoria June 1 SAPA—South Africa and Syria have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced on Wednesday [1 June]. The decision was guided by the joint

desire to strengthen and develop friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, a brief statement said.

Free Medical Care to Children, Pregnant Women

MB0106143094 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1310 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Pretoria June 1 SAPA—A R50 million [rand] health plan giving children under the age of six and pregnant women free medical care came into effect on Wednesday [1 June]. The plan applies only at state hospitals and for people without a medical aid scheme, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported.

Department of Health Director General Dr Coen Slabber said the plan would have a positive effect on the health of the population. He said seriously ill children and problems experienced by women during pregnancy would be able to be treated earlier.

Mandela on New Child Welfare Programs

MB0206080494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2303 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Pretoria June 1 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela said on Wednesday [1 June]—International Children's Day—that his government was committed to a comprehensive programme that would ensure security, rights and privileges for children in line with the UN declaration on the rights of the child. He said in a statement the government had already begun implementation of various programmes, first announced in parliament, to realise these objectives.

They include:

- free medical care in state hospitals and clinics for children under six years of age;
- a nutritional feeding scheme in primary schools;
- a detailed programme to be announced soon to empty the country's jails of children and to provide alternative care centres;
- legislation introducing free and quality education for all children to be introduced at the next parliamentary session;
- urgent attention being given to address the plight of homeless street children; and,
- legislation on the eradication of child abuse and child labour to be processed with deliberate speed.

"On this day, we also extend our solidarity with children throughout the world whose lives are ravaged by the scourges of hunger, war and ignorance. We commit ourselves to contribute to the best of our ability to the international efforts aimed at resolving these problems," Mr Mandela said.

Police Union Demands No Reduction in Health Benefits

MB0106125194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1159 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Pretoria June 1 SAPA—The South African Police Union [SAPU] which claims to have more than 30,000 members countrywide on Wednesday [1 June] demanded the immediate reversal of a decision by the medical aid schemes Polmed and Medihelp to reduce benefits for employees of the the South African Police Service [SAPS]. SAPU said in statement the unilateral decision followed media statements by minister of safety and security Mr Sydney Mufamadi that he would meet police unions to thrash out issues of salaries and benefits. The union criticised the medical aid schemes' decision as "arrogance of the worst kind".

According to SAPU it would embark on action which would have a serious effect on the medical aid schemes should the decision not be reversed. The reduction of benefits was "a slap in the face of SAPS employees" who were already financially disadvantaged. The statement said SAPU had already entered negotiations with other employee organisations, medical professionals and the SAPS on the issue.

Guidelines for New Training Strategy Published

MB0106184994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1500 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Guidelines for a new training strategy for South Africa have been published by the Department of Manpower. Earlier, a task group comprising representatives of the National Training Board, employers, employee organizations, education and training institutions, and the state was appointed by the Minister of Manpower to investigate the issue. The questions investigated includes the training of educators, basic adult education, and legislation. The report is available from the state printer and reaction to it must be submitted to the secretary of the National Training Board at Private Bag X117, Pretoria, before the 20th of this month.

Delay in Provincial Government Budgets Expected

MB0106162494 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 1 Jun 94 p 1

[By Tim Cohen]

[Text] Cape Town—Provincial Affairs officials expect that it will take up to a year before provincial governments pass their first budgets. Department sources said the long delay in the establishment of functioning provincial governments was inevitable considering the need to amalgamate some regional authorities and to split others.

The comments came as ANC local government negotiator Thozamile Botha was on Monday [30 May] appointed chairman of the commission on provincial government by Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer. SAPA [South Africa Press Agency] reports he

will be assisted by former MEC [Member Executive Council] and NP [National Party] member Tjol Lategan.

The commission is to facilitate the establishment of provincial governments and advise the Constitutional Assembly on developing provincial constitutions. Other members are R. Jager, P. Lephunya, T.R. Benecke-Jordaan, P. Daphen, N.N. Gwagwa, D.E.T. le Roux, J. Malatji, Y. Muthien, Z. Titus, T. Tihacoane, J.W.A. van der Merwe, V. Vedlanker and M. Webber. Only Botha and Lategan will serve in full-time capacities.

The departmental sources said although "those in the know" realised it would take time before provincial governments were up and running, the extent of the difficulties involved was not foreseen. The holding of provincial and national elections simultaneously was a "political decision" which did not take into account the likelihood that the provincial administrations would take time to be established.

However, representatives of provincial governments have since expressed frustration at the time it will take before they will be able to exercise their powers, but national government representatives say the delay is unavoidable.

Meanwhile, regional bureaucracies will be required to continue delivering their existing services, as stipulated by the constitution.

During the interim period, provincial governments will not be able to change existing structures without the backing of the national government. Pivotal in the process will be the establishment of the financial and fiscal commission, which will recommend the division of tax income between the national and provincial governments.

The constitution states that provinces may levy taxes—but only after they are authorised to do so by an Act of Parliament. The provinces will be entitled to "an equitable share" of national revenue once Parliament has fixed these amounts.

The allocation of national tax revenue will be made after the national interest and the recommendations of the financial and fiscal commission have been taken into account, the constitution states.

Defense Minister Announces Disbanding of NPKF

MB0106154194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1439 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Pretoria June 1 SAPA—The National Peace-keeping Force [NPKF] would be disbanded on Thursday [2 June], Defence Minister Joe Modise said in a statement in Pretoria on Wednesday. Mr Modise said the constituent forces would be returned to their home units in preparation for the integration of all the forces into the South African National Defence Force [SANDF].

He said he was following a recommendation by the National Peacekeeping Force Command Council, which was endorsed by the Transitional Executive Council's sub-council on defence.

SANDEF Chief Gen Georg Meiring would oversee the demobilisation, Mr Modise said.

A passing out parade was being held for NPKF members at the force's Koeberg Base in the Cape, a source at the NPKF said. Force members would also be given certificates of commendation. It was not known whether a similar parade was being held at the NPKF's De Brug base at Bloemfontein.

The NPKF was formed in February to help keep peace during the April elections. After its first outing on the East Rand, however, the NPKF was withdrawn to base and not used again.

It is understood that about 1,200 NPKF members who came from Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation], the armed wing of the African National Congress, would go to the Wallmannstal assembly point north of Pretoria for incorporation into the new National Defence Force.

About 2,800 members from the Transkei, Ciskei and Venda Defence Forces will return to their forces of origin until such time as those forces are incorporated into the SANDEF.

It was not known what would become of the NPKF's commander, Gen Gabriel Ramushwana, formerly head of state and armed forces commander in Venda.

Defense Force Chief Discusses Service Brigade

MB0206104394 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0858 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Pretoria June 2 SAPA—The South African National Defence Force [SANDEF] is planning a service brigade to assist the government's Reconstruction and Development programme, newly-appointed SANDEF chief Gen Georg Meiring said on Thursday [2 June]. He was addressing a press conference at Defence Force headquarters in Pretoria.

Outlining his vision of a Defence Force "out of the people and for the people" Gen Meiring said recruits who did not make the grade for admission into the Defence Force proper could become members of the service brigade. They would acquire skills in areas such as building houses and digging trenches as part of the Defence Force's contribution to the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Gen Meiring said that in the past the Defence Force had helped with drought relief and civil construction projects in townships. He foresaw a similar role for the service brigade.

Replying to questions, Gen Meiring said the process of integrating statutory and non-statutory armed forces into a single Defence Force would take about three years.

He outlined a "colour blind" Defence Force in which the best person for the job would get the job, regardless of his or her colour. He said positions from the rank of lieutenant-general upwards were filled by decision of the cabinet and he hoped political pressure would not be brought to bear on these appointments.

Over the next three years there would be bridging courses for soldiers with a background in non-statutory forces such as the African National Congress' armed wing Umkhonto We Sizwe [Spear of the Nation], but these would not qualify them to hold high rank in the SANDEF. He said the SANDEF would grow by about 30,000 members as personnel from other forces were taken in. Over a three-year period, however, it would be trimmed back to the size it is now.

About 10,000 volunteers would be drafted in 1995.

He said the defence budget had been scaled back by 47 per cent since 1989 and had reached a point when it was not feasible to cut it further. In fact, the defence budget would increase.

He did not see the SANDEF playing a major role in African peace-keeping efforts at this stage. Its first priority was towards South Africa and its next priority was to work in conjunction with the states of southern Africa.

On the integration of members of the Azanian Peoples Liberation Army [APLA], Gen Meiring said no APLA members' names appeared on the list agreed to in the constitution for inclusion in the SANDEF. However, APLA members could be accepted in their individual capacities. They were not automatically members of the SANDEF.

He said the SANDEF would continue with internal policing in support of the South African Police Service. But this was not a role it chose for itself and he hoped the political situation had changed in such a way that the SANDEF's presence on the East Rand would not be necessary for much longer.

He said Defence Minister Joe Modise had a working team studying the implications of a civilian ministry of defence.

Justice Minister: Amnesty Unlikely for Hani Killers

MB0106180194 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 1 Jun 94 p 1

[By political correspondent Chris Whitfield]

[Text] Clive Derby-Lewis and Janusz Walus—sentenced to death for the assassination of SA Communist Party chief Chris Hani—are unlikely to qualify for amnesty in terms of new legislation being drafted.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar told THE STAR yesterday: "I don't think it should be assumed that the definition (of politically motivated crimes) will cover them."

Justice Ministry sources indicated that the new amnesty legislation should be put before Parliament when it begins sitting again on June 20.

In terms of the Interim Constitution, the cut-off date for legislation which will free those convicted of or being responsible for politically motivated crimes should be December 6 1993. It is understood midnight on December 5 has been pencilled into the legislation being prepared.

Although Hani was assassinated on April 10 last year, Omar's comments appear to confirm that the definition of a "politically motivated crime" will be drafted in such a way that Derby-Lewis and Walus will not qualify.

There was no indication whether it will include others involved in notorious cases such as the killing of Amy Biehl and those responsible for various massacres—such as Boipatong, Bisho and the St James Church slaughters—before December 5.

This week there were indications after talks between President Mandela and CP [Conservative Party] leader Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg that the right wing could benefit from amnesty for politically related crimes.

It was not clear whether this would include the 32 men who allegedly carried out a spate of pre-election bomb attacks as this would require a change to the Interim Constitution by extending the cut-off date, which appears unlikely.

After meeting Hartzenberg on Monday, Mandela said the Government would apply the same criteria for amnesty to rightwingers who committed offences of a political nature between October 8 1990—the cut-off date in existing legislation—and December 5 last year. Hartzenberg and Omar are to hold talks on the amnesty issue.

Deputy President de Klerk had allegedly seen the draft legislation and approved it.

South African Press Review for 2 Jun MB0206142394

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Back in Commonwealth—"It is one of history's little ironies that those most vocal in bewailing South Africa's departure from the Commonwealth in 1961 are now most lukewarm about our readmission," notes an editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 2 June on page 16. "'Club' membership no longer brings unquestioned economic benefits in terms of preferential tariffs and increased trade. But it does offer assistance in education and literacy, technical training, health programmes, scientific conferences and other areas where years of enforced isolation from the world have left us lagging well behind

other countries of comparable size and influence." "As long as the costs of membership do not substantially outweigh the benefits, South Africa will be better off as a member of the Commonwealth than as an 'old boy' looking on from the sidelines."

BUSINESS DAY

Looming Bank Legislation—"Apprehension over looming legislation to compel banks to detail publicly information on lending by race and by sex is understandable," states an editorial in the 2 June BUSINESS DAY in English. "Apart from the obvious difficulties of compiling the information" there would "also be the bureaucratic cost of complying with yet another layer of regulation." Against the bank's "understandable fear" of being "legally or morally coerced into making riskier loans," is the counter of using "openness" as a "potent marketing tool" to "differentiate banks from each other and help in their efforts to attract and keep business." "The banks have to accept that they are operating in a new environment. By the same token, the ANC's advisers must be realistic and not seek to introduce commercially unsound change."

New World—"South Africa is tumbling with gusto into every possible international forum that once rejected us: the Commonwealth, the Organisation of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, the International Labour Organisation, and of course, we will soon be back in the UN General Assembly." "It is not clear that the Non-Aligned Movement has any further role in what has been for years a unipolar world" and Commonwealth membership "will not deliver much of measurable significance," the second editorial in the 2 June BUSINESS DAY notes. "More important are our international trade relations, and they are helped by our new membership of international forums." "After the 'welcome back' fanfare, government and the private sector will have to work at enhancing the relationships that count."

SOWETAN

Back in Commonwealth—"Getting back into the Commonwealth is important but is mainly a sentimental and psychological boost for South Africa, notes an editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 2 June on page 8. The Commonwealth nations are mainly poor and there is not much to gain economically." Going from "pariah state" exclusion affected not only "intellectual, cultural and economic stimulation, but our confidence." And being back in the Commonwealth "also means we will compete again in the Commonwealth games."

THE CITIZEN

Return to International Bodies—"Resuming our Commonwealth membership is another major step in the normalisation of our relations with the outside world," states an editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 1 June on page 6. South Africa also became a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of African Unity and will take its seat in the United Nations. "When that happens, we will be back in all international bodies from which we were excluded by apartheid, and we will be able to hold our heads high once more in the community of nations."

Angola**Government Negotiator Issues Ultimatum to Beye***MB0106133794 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 1 Jun 94**[Report by correspondent Alves Antonio in Lusaka]*

[Text] Good afternoon. The government ultimatum to the mediator has begun to bear fruit. Over the past few hours the government mediating team asked Alioune Blondin Beye to play his true role or else it would publicly expose a number of situations that it regards as incorrect and prejudicial to the negotiating process.

The government ultimatum led Blondin Beye to redouble his contacts with National Union for the Total Independence of Angola's [UNITA] men with a view to convincing them to return to the negotiating table at once. The dosage administered by the government representatives worked like a wonder drug. Accordingly, this morning the mediator received in his room the government and UNITA chief negotiators. It is believed that issues relating to the adoption of a working agenda were discussed during the meeting. It is already known that the government is staying put, in that it will only discuss other points of the agenda once the issue under discussion—the future of the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel—has been settled.

The UNITA negotiating team appears to be calmer because it already knows what government posts will be assigned to that organization. Yesterday, the UNITA delegation received the government document on this issue. Since silence is golden, the contents of the government document are not known, except that a number of ministerial portfolios have been given to UNITA.

The government and UNITA chief negotiators are scheduled to meet the mediator as of 1530 today.

Accord Said Reached on UNITA Radio*MB0106202594 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 1 Jun 94**[Report by correspondent Manuel da Conceicao in Lusaka]*

[Text] The impasse is over. The negotiating teams have already resumed their talks, but only at the level of heads of delegation. With the presence of the mediator and observers, the heads of the government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] teams once again discussed UNITA's Vorgan [Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel]. Agreement has been reached, and tomorrow night the last day Vorgan will be discussed. Should that be the case, the negotiators will begin discussing UNITA's participation in government.

On 28 May the government sent a document to UNITA through the mediator, stating what ministerial and

deputy ministerial portfolios it would give that organization within the framework of national reconciliation. To prevent further delays, President of the Republic Jose Eduardo dos Santos sent a special envoy to Lusaka. He is General (Gopelipa), who delivered the document to Beye. The UN representative received the document and locked it in his drawer, only delivering it to UNITA on 31 May.

The UNITA negotiating team is assessing the government proposal. Jorge Valentim says it is not a bad proposal because obstacles have been removed.

What matters is that the war should end. The talks will continue tomorrow, but only at the level of heads of delegations and the mediator.

Military Situation in Cuito. Mexico Updated*MB0106140394 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 1 Jun 94*

[Excerpts] National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] rebels have stepped up their attacks and shelling of the city of Cuito in the past 24 hours. Government forces remain determined to defend the martyred civilians.

Between 2100 on 31 May and dawn today, UNITA fired more than 1,500 shells at the city of Cuito. Attacks were also carried out in just about every corner of the city, with government defensive lines coming under intense fire. UNITA has strengthened its positions that keep the city under siege. The aim is to storm the city of Cuito before the Lusaka talks end. Troops from Andulo continue to move around the city to once again try to fulfill what Mr. Savinabi often refers to as the final assault. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in Moxico Province, UNITA raided the [name indistinct] Ward, 18 km north of the city of Luena at dawn today. The ward was set alight and 153 civilians were left homeless. [passage omitted]

MPLA Allegedly Bombs Hospital With Chemical Weapons*MB0206100294 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 2 Jun 94*

[Text] Civilian targets, such as health clinics and other public installations, are still targets of the vast program of destruction of the Luanda warmongering leaders. Our correspondent Jardim Prata reports from Cuito:

[Begin Prata recording] Two Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT] Su-23 aircraft from Catumbela Air Base bombed the Bi: Central Hospital, dropping eight highly toxic chemical bombs, completely destroying the [words indistinct] and emergency wards, which are still burning. The population is very worried about this political and tribal genocide perpetrated by the MPLA-PT. We will give further details later on. [end recording]

The central hospital of the city of Bie [Cuito] has been burning since 1300 yesterday, when incendiary and chemical bombs were dropped by Jose Eduardo dos Santos' aircraft. The residents, who are tired of war, request the international community to help end this hideous MPLA-PT massacre of defenseless civilians, in which children and women suffer the most as a result of the Futungo de Belas absurdity.

The central city of Bie is suffering violent clashes, and yesterday evening considerable blood was shed. The main targets of Eduardo dos Santos' organizations are [word indistinct] and Hotel Cuito, where attacking People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] are losing lethal materiel, as well as its best commanders and a high number of soldiers. Jardim Prata reports:

[Begin Prata recording] Over the past 48 hours, the glorious Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] counterattacked MPLA soldiers and killed 57 FAPLA soldiers, including four officers, an unidentified lieutenant colonel and three majors named Lito, Joao, and Pedrito, respectively the commanders of the first and second FAPLA battalions [as heard]. UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] forces captured 21 AK-47 weapons, 11 RPG-7's, 11 PKM submachine guns with 40 ammunition belts, 3 R-4 weapons, and a considerable quantity of AK and PKM ammunition. Meanwhile, FAPLA are still [word indistinct] FALA defense lines. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the situation is not very different in Lunda Norte Province. The Luanda regime also has its criminal apparatus in the area and is bent on exterminating the civilian population at all costs. An Su-25 aircraft indiscriminately dropped bombs over the Luzamba mining post in Cafunfo by 1130 on 31 May. Four hours later, by 1500, a similar aircraft raided the Muquelele ward in the Cafunfo commune, as well as the Luremo commune, killing two civilians and wounding many others, two seriously.

Americo Tomas, Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockrel reporter in Cabinda Province, reports that the Luanda regime is waging an offensive in Necuto, Beira-a-Nova, Chapa, and Ganda Congo areas, north of the province. Over the past 72 hours, 53 civilians were killed and about 100 others wounded, causing many people to take refuge abroad. The FAPLA operations are run by General Jose Pedro, a man without scruples, who in 1991 ordered the massacre of Choa, which spread all over the province killing more than 1,000 civilians.

In view of yet another MPLA military offensive, FALA's command in Cabinda yesterday said it would not fold its arms when lives of civilians are at stake.

UNITA, FLEC Attacks Reported in Cabinda

MB0106204294 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The political and military situation in the city of Cuito remains unchanged. In the past few hours 53 people were killed and 114 wounded as a result of attacks on civilians by UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebels. This brings the number of killed to 253 and 503 wounded since 26 May. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in the Buco Zau District of Cabinda Province, UNITA and the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave-Cabinda Armed Forces have stepped up their warmongering operations against the residents [words indistinct] killing five civilians, including a three-year old child. They were killed in an ambush in [words indistinct] schools, hospitals, bridges and houses have been destroyed. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

Chissano Discusses Electoral Registration Problems

MB0106185694 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Registration of voters for the upcoming October general and multiparty elections began in Mozambique today. President of the Republic Joaquim Chissano registered as a voter this morning at the station operating in the Josina Machel High School near the Ponta Vermelha palace, the official residence of the Mozambican head of state. Afterwards, Chissano gave an interview to journalists covering the event. The journalists wanted to know what assistance the president of the republic would give to resolve the transportation problem hindering the electoral process.

[Begin recording] [Chissano] We are aware of the shortage of transportation, even for state and government activities. There are even government administrators and heads of administrative regions who walk. We would like every vehicle to be used fully so that government departments and the National Elections Commission [CNE] may successfully accomplish their missions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Transportation difficulties have to a certain extent affected the integration of Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] areas, even [words indistinct] Renamo says its advisers lack the facilities to ensure the full integration of its areas into state administration. The registration of voters is under way, but reports from the provinces say it has been difficult to reach Renamo areas. So, one could say the government and Renamo bear a degree of responsibility, in that the former has not created facilities for Renamo advisers and the latter is preventing people from entering its areas. Would you like to comment?

[Chissano] The question of transportation for Renamo advisers is a false one. I have just said there are administrators who have no transportation whatsoever. Yet, they continue to carry out their activities. As for the advisers, they are not advising Renamo, but the governors. They have been named by Renamo to be appointed by the government as advisers to governors. They work under the same conditions as other officials serving provincial governors. So, that is a false problem because no one ever said vehicles would be allocated to every official. What was said was that an adviser was entitled to transportation. That means the use of public transportation, if available, or facilities that have fortunately been provided by communities so that our officials may operate. So, that is a false excuse.

[Correspondent] How do you view the difficulties Renamo has created [words indistinct] it seems that in most provinces the (?CNE) teams have been (?prevented) from operating?

[Chissano] Really, I think Renamo has some difficulties. It had problems in filling certain teams of district electoral commissions. They have been recruiting personnel in districts and areas. We know of people who used to work for us, but who have been recruited by Renamo. So, Renamo is recruiting people.

I would like to say that the integration of areas has already begun. I announced it at the opening of the meeting of Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] cadres yesterday. The minister of state administration today met with the Reintegration Commission. Areas have been identified. We have appealed to Renamo to name those who will be appointed to state agencies at location, district, and administrative region levels. This is something that is in progress. So, I think every difficulty will be overcome. I believe Renamo is facing real difficulties. [end recording]

Denies Seeking Commonwealth Membership

LD0106145194 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 1100 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpts] With the end of apartheid, the countries which surround South Africa are beginning to think about an African economic commonwealth. Almost all belong to the British Commonwealth. Mozambique is one such country, and its status as observer has led many economists and intellectuals to say that Mozambique should adopt the English language.

However, speaking to RDP1 this morning, President Joaquim Chissano said Mozambique will keep Portuguese as its official language and will not seek membership in the Commonwealth.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Will Mozambique seek full membership of the Commonwealth?

[Chissano] Mozambique has never asked to join the Commonwealth. Mozambique has always asked for support and has widened its range of countries for economic and other, diplomatic, cooperation. And so the Commonwealth decided at one point to invite us to attend its meetings as an observer. This was because our country is surrounded by Commonwealth countries and because we played a very important role in the independence struggle in Zimbabwe, South Africa-Namibia. We have always been considered an important country in these processes, and the Commonwealth wanted to benefit from our practice and from our experience.

But we have never asked to join the Commonwealth. Therefore I do not understand why there is concern in Portugal about whether we are members of the Commonwealth or not.

[Correspondent] But will you seek to join?

[Chissano] We will not ask to join. If we are invited to join, I also do not see it, even though today the Commonwealth does not mean being a member of Great Britain or paying [word indistinct] to Great Britain. It is an organization like the Islamic Conference or other conferences where countries are welcome; it is an international organization which today is not based on whether a country speaks English or not. At the moment is it the English-speaking countries. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

That was President Chissano speaking on the first day of the registration of voters in Mozambique. He was speaking about the future of Mozambique and its language, and its relations with the Commonwealth. We apologize for the sound quality of the recording.

Renamo Official Burns Electoral Office in Zambezia

MB0106130694 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat in Zambezia says that after the chairman of the Zambezia Provincial Elections Commission got his voter card this morning, its technical team—made up of delegates of the Mozambique Liberal and Democratic Party, the Mozambican Nationalist Movement, a representative of the town council, Catholic Bishop Dom Bernardo, and a government official—flew urgently to Gile District. This happened because the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] delegate in that district burned one of the electoral registration posts in the capital of Gile and afterwards, with a group of people, attempted to destroy the District Elections Commission office. Having been immediately detained by the Police of the Republic of Mozambique Command, the delegate of Renamo in Gile District said he was following orders from his superiors since Renamo does not recognize the electoral organs.

Liberia

ECOMOG Issues Warning Statement to Factions

AB0106121394 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English 0900 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] is warning that its patience and calmness should not be misinterpreted as weakness. ECOMOG is reminding the factions that Article 8 of the Cotonou Accord allows ECOMOG the right of self-defense but it does not wish to be compelled to implement this section of the accord.

According to a release issued last night, ECOMOG noted that the practice whereby all the factions abduct ECOMOG soldiers at will must stop. The release noted that while ECOMOG's neutral position in this crisis is unquestionable and so far as ECOMOG will not [words indistinct] helplessly while its men and material are being maltreated and vandalized, ECOMOG says its patience should not be misinterpreted as a weakness.

The release continued that about two weeks ago, nine ECOMOG soldiers belonging to the Ugandan contingent were abducted by the LPC [Liberian Peace Council] for no reason whatsoever and kept in captivity for about three days. Also, another soldier was kidnapped by the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] early this year and is yet to be released. Similarly, five ECOMOG soldiers are still being held by ULIMO fighters.

ECOMOG wishes to reassure the people of Liberia and the international community that ECOMOG is religiously committed to the principle and spirit of the Cotonou Accord. ECOMOG says this commitment is evidenced by the way ECOMOG troops have continued to remain calm in the face of extremely reckless provocations.

Meanwhile, the West African peacekeeping force has described as baseless and false allegations being made by the warring factions in the Liberian crisis against ECOMOG. ECOMOG says these allegations are only intended to discredit ECOMOG and its invaluable role and responsibility as a neutral peacekeeping force.

In a statement issued last night, ECOMOG said while these allegations would not have required any rebuttal, it is necessary to stop [words indistinct]. In the statement, ECOMOG said in March this year, ECOMOG, in collaboration with UNOMIL [UN Observer Mission in Liberia], initiated a cease-fire negotiation between the NPFL and LPC but to their disappointment both sides proved not to be honest and serious about achieving peace. On two occasions, ECOMOG and UN joint reconnaissance missions to ascertain the disposition of the opposing forces were frustrated by the NPFL. On its part, the LPC has refused to cease hostilities so that ECOMOG can deploy its troops. ECOMOG says it is

preposterous, therefore, for the NPFL and LPC to turn around after all these efforts to cast aspersions as to ECOMOG's neutrality.

On the ULIMO issue, ECOMOG noted that in March, April, and May this year, series of reconciliatory meetings were held, all initiated by ECOMOG at the ECOMOG headquarters with UNOMIL officials in attendance to resolve the rift between Alhaji Koromah and Roosevelt Johnson to enable the peace process move forward. The cease-fire agreements reached at these meetings were not respected by either party. Still in an attempt to curtail the mayhem in Tubmanburg, Bong mines, and Bo, ECOMOG deployed troops to these areas as a confidence-building measure and to deter the fighters of the two factions from further carnage. The release said in spite of all these, the fighting persisted, thereby endangering the lives of ECOMOG officers and men as well as material deployed to these areas.

The release concluded that since ECOMOG is a neutral multinational force whose mandate is to ensure that peace returns to Liberia, it did all that was humanly possible short of combat action to stop the carnage without success.

Niger

Labor Unions Embark on 'Indefinite Strike'

AB0106223294 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Niger workers of the public sector this morning embarked on their first general, indefinite strike at the request of the Federation of Labor Unions of Niger [USTN]. Parastatals will not follow the indefinite strike, but they will experience disruptions in labor through periodic strikes. The USTN is demanding, among other things, the abrogation of a decree regulating strikes in the civil service and a 30- to 50-percent increase in salary. Several people in Niamey and in the provinces have condemned this indefinite strike, which they say will be suicidal for educational institutions in Niger. These institutions run the risk of experiencing three invalid academic years within four.

In a communique issued yesterday evening, the government spokesman condemned the intransigence of the labor union and threatened to enforce the existing laws on any worker who will not report for work. However, the government confirmed its readiness to create the conditions for a sincere partnership. Here is the minister of communications, Massaoudou Hassoumi:

[Begin Hassoumi recording] [passage omitted] Out of the seven-point demands there was total agreement on five, a partial agreement on one point, and a disagreement on one point. The calm which prevailed throughout the negotiations, and the impression created that both sides admit to important results having been achieved, did not hint that the labor union was going to maintain its

indefinite strike order. The government reiterates its readiness to create conditions for a sincere partnership. However, in the face of the labor union's intransigence to maintain its strike order, the government reaffirms its firm determination to strictly enforce provisions regulating strikes. It calls on workers who care for the future for the future of our country to report for work. Thank you. [end recording]

Nigeria

Antigovernment Demonstrations Occur in Lagos

AB0106162394 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT 1 Jun 94

[By Jacques Pinto]

[Text] Lagos, June 1 (AFP)—Anti-government demonstrators took to the streets on the outskirts of Lagos on Wednesday [1 June] a day after an ultimatum from pro-democracy groups to Nigeria's junta to stand down expired, an opposition spokesman said.

An official in the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights told AFP that protestors had put up barricades in northern suburbs and also blockaded roads leading out of Nigeria's economic capital to the east and to the west. Eyewitnesses confirmed that protestors had put up road-blocks and set tyres on fire in Abule Egba, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) outside the centre of the sprawling metropolis.

The rights committee spokesman said the demonstrations began the morning after a deadline given by the National Democratic Campaign (NADECO) to the regime of General Sani Abacha to stand down expired at midnight Tuesday. The protests in the suburbs were "a symbolic action in support of the NADECO agenda and to register their (the people's) displeasure against continued military rule," the spokesman said, asking not to be named.

National radio began broadcasts Wednesday with a warning to NADECO from police chief Ibrahim Coomassie that a ban on political activity and public gatherings remained in force.

The police chief called on "all genuine advocates" of democracy to take part in a national constitutional conference the regime plans to organise from June 27 as a key point of its programme to restore elected civilian rule. Any other political programmes would be considered "illegal," Coomassie warned.

The NADECO, which comprises many prominent Nigerians, including former government ministers and state governors, retired military figures and rights activists, has dismissed the planned conference as a ruse by the military to hold on to power.

It called on Abacha, who seized power last November and scrapped all Nigeria's democratic institutions, to go by midnight on March 31 [as received] and hand over to

Moshood Abiola, held millionaire businessman held on unofficial results comfortably to have won a presidential election.

That poll, held on June 12 last year, was billed free and fair by international observers but annulled by then military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida, who alleged irregularities. Two months later, Babangida stepped down, installing an unelected civilian administration, which Abacha ousted.

Abiola on Tuesday told journalists at his Lagos home that "if NADECO calls on me to form a government, I will form a government." "Abacha is a goner," he said.

The military administrator of Lagos State, Colonel Olanunsoye Oyinlola, for his part warned that police had been put on alert to prevent any breaches of the peace.

The annulment of the poll last year led to bloody demonstrations in several parts of Lagos. Residents of some city districts continued Wednesday to stock up on food, hiking the prices of basics such as rice, for fear of trouble.

Abiola, a Moslem from the Yoruba ethnic group with support notably in southwest Nigeria, said he had contacted a number of leading Nigerians with a view to forming a national unity government.

Africa's most populous nation, with some 88 million people, has many ethnic groups, of which the largest are the Yorubas and Ibos of the mainly Christian south and the Hausa-Fulani of the predominantly Moslem north.

Dissolved Senate Declares Military Regime 'Illegal'

AB0106191094 Paris AFP in French 1822 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Lagos, 1 Jun (AFP)—The dissolved Nigerian Senate this evening declared the ruling military administration "illegal" and called for "the official publication of the results of the 12 June 1993 presidential elections, canceled by the soldiers.

In a communique signed by its president, Ameh Ebute, a copy of which has reached AFP, the senate "decides to restore all democratic institutions" of Nigeria, "calls for the publication of the results of the June 12 election", and the "formation of a government of national unity and reconciliation...by the elected president."

Moshood Abiola, the billionaire Yoruba Muslim, claims to have won the 12 June 1993 elections on the basis of official results published in each of the 30 states of the federation after the closure of polling stations, and collected by his supporters. These results were never officially published by the National Electoral Commission in Abuja, the federal capital, as stipulated by the Constitution. This is because the former administration

of General Ibrahim Babangida said the elections were full of irregularities which, up to now, have not been proved.

The Senate and all democratic institutions of Nigeria were dissolved on 18 November 1993 by General Abacha, 24 hours after his sudden takeover of power in the country.

Former Senators Form Opposition Group

*AB0106192194 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 1 Jun 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] One of the catalysts of opposition in Nigeria has been the election of the consultative constitutional conference, known locally as the Confab, which is supposed to draw up a new political dispensation. It seems to have sharpened the resolve of those who look back at the annulled elections of 12 June last year and want those results reinstated. Now a new opposition group is emerging of senators elected last year but who lost their jobs when the Senate was disbanded along with all other institutions when General Abacha seized power. A number of senators say that they are going to reform the Senate, among them is Segun Bame Gbetan who was elected senator for Oshun East. On the line Akoi Amusu asked him if it wasn't a bit late to be reviving the Senate.

[Begin recording] [Gbetan] Well, we have made this move because since the annulment of the results of 12 June 1993 election, we feel that there is no other way but to try to resolve both the annulment of the results of that election and to get the Senate and in fact the National Assembly back to function. So, that is the general consensus now that the senators have also come together that we should get the democratic structures back in place.

[Amusu] But aren't you just causing confusion? I mean, the Abacha government is now in the process of setting up a constitutional conference. It has held elections and everything. So, why are you now suddenly coming out to say that you want the old Senate to meet?

[Gbetan] Well, it is accepted that there may have been some confusion about the strategy and the style to adopt but the goal has always been the same: The goal of the political class is the same as the military government of General Abacha. Both want to install lasting democracy and whether it is through Confab or through general resolution, the goal is the same. So, I think now if you have a general resolution, the Confab may not be necessary.

[Amusu] But Gen. Abacha doesn't want you old politicians to come out of the woodwork. He wants to start afresh with a clean slate.

[Gbetan] No, there is no intention on the part of Gen. Abacha to leave out any particular group. That was why

everybody was allowed to contest and quite a number of senators contested and won election into the Confab.

[Amusu] So, what you are suggesting is that the Abacha government should just forget about the constitutional conference, what you are calling a Confab, and just let you senators sort it all out.

[Gbetan] Yes, I believe that is a very viable alternative to the Confab.

[Amusu] But you see, if Gen. Abacha is being asked to accept your election in those elections of last year as being valid, then why shouldn't he accept the election of Moshood Abiola whose election as president has been annulled?

[Gbetan] Yes, Gen. Abacha and his government have distanced themselves from the illegal annulment of that election and I believe they are working towards restoring the results of that election.

[Amusu] But they've showed no signs of that. They have shown absolutely no signs of their intent to reinstall Chief Abiola as president of Nigeria. In fact, on the contrary, they seem to be doing everything to avoid that.

[Gbetan] Well, I believe that what they have not done is to try to do it by military fiat or by executive fiat and that is by trying to go through the Confab and particularly General Diya has said that they will abide by the decision of the Confab and I think the feeling in the country today is that the Confab should go there and resolve that issue and get Chief M.K. Abiola to form his government. [end recording]

Police Vow To Repel 'Disorder' With Force

*AB0106193594 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in
English 1800 GMT 1 Jun 94*

[Text] The Nigeria police has declared as illegal any political programs outside those of the Federal Government. In a statement in Lagos today, the inspector general of police, Ibrahim Commassie, warned that any attempt to install another government other than the present federal military government by any person or group of persons, will be repelled with force. The inspector general of police said that the federal military government, in its genuine effort to return the country to a democratic rule, has set in motion a program to achieve the goal. He said the fact that the present military administration has continued to guarantee freedom of expression, should not be used to cause public disorder. The police therefore advised members of the public to go about their lawful businesses as their safety is guaranteed.

The statement added that the Nigerian police and other security agents, are fully prepared to deal decisively with any person or group of persons who decide to break the public peace or stand as an obstacle to the march toward a lasting democracy.

Warn Against Installation of Abiola

AB0206091294 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] The Nigerian police has warned that any person, whether a politician, retired military officer or prodemocracy crusader trying to install another government will be dealt with decisively by security agencies. The warning followed publications indicating that Chief M.K.O. Abiola will be sworn in as president of this country on the 12th of this month.

In a statement signed by the inspector general of police, Alhaji Ibrahim Commassie, the police reminded the public that there was a military government running the affairs of the nation and that the freedom of expression guaranteed by the administration will not be abused. The statement noted that some of the publications have even speculated those to be appointed into the cabinet and observed that those mentioned were sufficiently knowledgeable to understand the implications of such illegal acts. It has also warned Chief M.K.O. Abiola and his [words indistinct] and those who (?are pretending) to be fighting his cause, of the grave consequences of these treasonable acts as provided for in the [words indistinct].

Security Measures Against NADECO, Abiola Reported

AB0106160794 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 1 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] All the national dailies today report the warning handed to the newly formed National Democratic Coalition, NADECO, by the inspector general of police, Alhaji Ibrahim Commassie.

The papers say Alhaji Ibrahim yesterday declared NADECO an illegal political body, warning its members to desist from confronting the government. According to the papers, the police boss warned NADECO of the consequences of its activities which the police was not

ready to tolerate. They say Alhaji Commassie ordered the group to wind up its activities or face the wrath of the law. The papers say the inspector general's warning came amid public anxiety over the expiration today of NADECO's ultimatum to the military government to relinquish power.

And the dailies also report that NADECO has unfolded the agenda aimed at restoring democracy in Nigeria. They quote a member of the group as saying that the struggle to restore democratic rule in the country will not necessarily be a confrontation with the military but will involve the participation of all patriotic Nigerians. The papers quote a statement by NADECO urging Nigerians to remain resolute in their demand for democracy.

THE PUNCH and THE VANGUARD report that the group also demanded the resignation of democrats and progressives in government who, according to it, have been lending credibility to the military administration. The group's ultimatum to the Abacha administration to hand over power to a democratic national government expired last night.

"Federal Government Keeps M.K.O. Under Close Watch"—the TRIBUNE: The paper reports that a secret security network has been woven around Chief M.K.O. Abiola, apparently to prevent him from making any move that might undermine the authority of the government. The TRIBUNE notes that though there have been no overt moves to restrict his movement, Chief Abiola is believed to be tailed by security agents who also monitor his interaction with people. The paper reports that the fresh security measures might have been adopted in a move widely interpreted as government's reaction to threats by prodemocracy groups to wrest power from it.

THE VANGUARD reports that the Nigerian Government has given the National Constitutional Conference the green light to discuss the annulled 12 June election when it convenes this month. The issue, according to the report, will be discussed under a broad topic: Sanctity of Democracy and the Democratic Process. According to THE VANGUARD, the issue has been placed under Item 28 in the conference agenda.

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